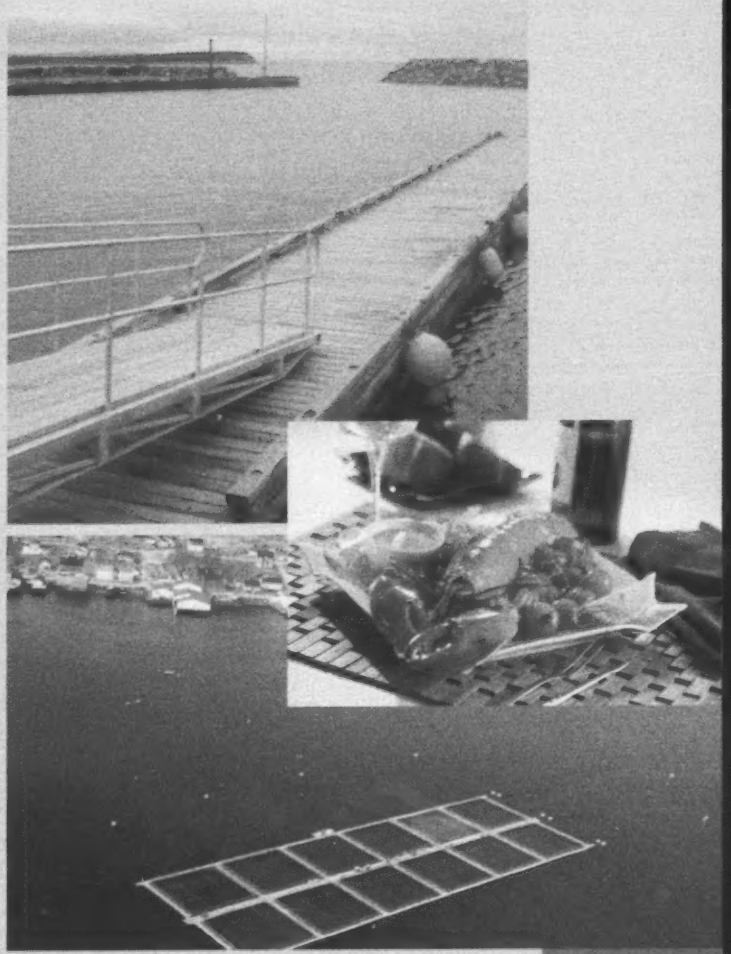
NOVA SCOTIA

Fisheries and Aquaculture

Accountability Report



for the fiscal year 2013–2014

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Accountability Statement

The accountability report of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture for the year ended March 31, 2014 is prepared pursuant to the *Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Statement of Mandate for the fiscal year 2013-2014. The reporting of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by department management.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture management. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the department's 2013-2014 Statement of Mandate.

Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.
Minister

Brian Rogers
Deputy Minister

Message from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture accountability report for 2013-2014.

The fisheries and aquaculture sectors are the backbone of Nova Scotia's coastal rural communities. As the One Nova Scotia report highlighted, these sectors, currently worth over a billion dollars, are critical to the future growth and prosperity of the province.

In 2013-2014 Nova Scotia, in collaboration with the other Maritime Provinces, responded swiftly to address some of the challenges in the lobster industry. I also initiated the development of a new commercial fisheries strategy with the goal of making full use of the tremendous natural advantage we have in the seafood sector and the opportunities ahead for us as we work to enable growth in this industry.

The work of the Doelle-Lahey panel continued its consultation on developing a modern regulatory framework for the aquaculture industry. The department continues to support a strategic approach to industry growth and sustainable resource management.

The department continued to promote local fish, seafood products and sport fishing. I encourage readers to visit the department's website at http:/www.gov.ns.ca/fish to learn more about fisheries and aquaculture in Nova Scotia.

Honourable Keith Colwell, E.C.N.S.
Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Financial Results

Fisheries and Aquaculture

	2013-14 Estimate ($thousands)	2013-14 Actual ($thousands)
Administration	1,009	612
Aquaculture	2,663	2,188
Inland Fisheries	2,043	2,311
Marine Fisheries	3,329	3,904
Product Development	0	0
Total Gross Departmental Expenses	**9,044**	**9,015**
Additional Information		
Other Fees and Charges	(929)	(1,031)
Ordinary Recoveries	0	(1)
TCA Purchase Requirements	65	121
Provincial Funded Staff (FTEs)	77.1	63.6

Measuring our Performance

Sustainable Resource Management

SQUARE METERS OF FISH HABITAT RESTORED

The department administers the Sportfish Habitat Fund as the primary revenue source for the Adopt-A-Stream program, which supports projects aimed at improving access to recreational fishing. Adopt-A-Stream supports community groups working to restore and rehabilitate fish habitat. Funding for this program comes from a $5.71 levy on each angling licence sold. This investment is matched by cash and in-kind contributions from community groups on a 3 to 1 basis. The economic model for Adopt-A-Stream estimates that each square meter of restored habitat is valued at about $13.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

This measure shows the number of square meters of fish and riparian habitat restored along Nova Scotia's inland waters and streams.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The department helped 21 community groups restore approximately 112,000 square meters of fish habitat in 2013 and, through restored fish passage at 20 culvert crossings approximately 90 km of aquatic habitat was made accessible to migrating fish. Debris blockage removal on streams also enabled enhanced fish migration in over 300km of stream. Volunteers have restored more than 1.2 million square meters of aquatic habitat since the program's inception.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

The department aims to restore 115,000 square meters annually through this program.

NUMBER OF TROUT AND SALMON STOCKED IN RIVERS AND LAKES

Stocking lakes and rivers in Nova Scotia with trout and salmon provides sport fishing opportunities throughout the province. Enhancing sport fish populations allows increased effort on these populations while conserving wild stocks. Stocked lakes also provide opportunities for directed activities such as fishing derbies, winter sport fishing and learn to fish events.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

This measure shows the number of sport fish stocked in Nova Scotia's lakes and rivers on a yearly basis.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Results for Nova Scotia from the 2013 stocking program show that 1,847,000 trout and salmon were stocked. This is consistent with the previous year's total and with the target for 2013-14.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?
The department aims to maintain existing stocking levels while looking at opportunities to use hatchery produced fish to promote and develop Nova Scotia's sport fishing sector.

NUMBER OF SPORT FISHING LICENCES SOLD
Sport fishing continues to be one of Nova Scotia's most popular outdoor recreational activities. The department sells licences to resident and non-resident anglers to sport fish in the province.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?
This measure shows the number of anglers who are actively participating in Nova Scotia's sport fishing sector.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?
Results for Nova Scotia from the 2013 sales indicate that 67, 322 adult anglers purchased a sport fishing licence in 2013. This is consistent with the previous year's total and with the target for 2013-14.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?
The department aims to increase participation in Nova Scotia's sport fishing sector over time with continued promotions and programs aimed at attracting new and non-resident anglers, youth and women.

Industry Growth and Development

NUMBER OF JOBS RELATED TO PRIMARY AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION AND AQUACULTURE SEAFOOD PROCESSING
In 2012, the department developed a strategy for the long-term sustainable development of Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry. As this strategy is implemented, industry employment numbers are expected to increase.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?
This measure will capture change in the number of full-time and part-time jobs related to Nova Scotia aquaculture.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?
The number of individuals employed in the aquaculture industry in Nova Scotia in 2013 was 636, which was consistent with 2012 numbers.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?
The province would like to see increased industry employment numbers. The 2012 provincial Aquaculture Strategy laid out the plan for the responsible growth of a sustainable aquaculture industry. One of the key pillars identified to support this growth

was a strong regulatory framework. As a result, the Department hired an independent Panel to develop recommendations for a modern aquaculture regulatory framework. The two-person panel will be releasing their recommendations before the end of 2014. This process involved extensive public, industry and stakeholder consultation, as well as the investigation of industry regulations in other jurisdiction.

VALUE OF AQUACULTURE LANDINGS

The industry is going through an evolution toward a scale of enterprise that can succeed in a very globalized and ultra-competitive sector. With continued industry development, Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry will continue to be one of the most diverse in Canada, and will contribute further to the rural economy.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

This measure shows the dollar value of sales from Nova Scotia's aquaculture farms.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Nova Scotia's aquaculture industry generated $54 million in 2013, consistent with last year's production values. Atlantic Salmon and Rainbow Trout generated the highest landings and value.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

The Department expects the value of aquaculture production in Nova Scotia to increase as a result of the implementation of the 2012 Aquaculture Strategy.

FISHERIES AND FISH PRODUCT EXPORTS

Seafood products are Nova Scotia's second leading category of exports, and are an important industry in terms of the province's long-term economic growth. The department continues to promote seafood exports through ongoing trade initiatives such as participation in major international trade shows and incoming and outgoing buyer missions.

WHAT DOES THE MEASURE TELL US?

The measure shows the overall value of Nova Scotia's seafood exports.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Nova Scotia exported $1.07 billion worth of seafood in 2013, up by 15.6% (from $922.6 million) from the previous year. Although the global recession continues to have an impact on the export markets, Nova Scotia's seafood market has experience growth for the past four years.

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN THE FUTURE?

The department aims to see an increase in seafood exports over the long-term. Ongoing support will include targeted development initiatives to increase product values, and market diversification.

Appendix A

Annual Report under Section 18 of the *Public Interest Disclosure of Wrongdoing Act*

The following is a summary of disclosures received by the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture

Information Required under Section18 of the Act	Fiscal Year 2013-2014
The number of disclosures received	0
The number of findings of wrongdoing	0
Details of each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A
Recommendations and actions taken on each wrongdoing (insert separate row for each wrongdoing)	N/A